



Christ Lutheran CHURCH

WEEKLY SCRIBE
January 25, 2026

Faith Formation Opportunities ~ *Sundays 9:20 a.m.*

| | Sanctuary | Church Hall | 120 Library |
|-----------|------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1/25/2026 | | Baptised We Live Pastor Erica/Pastor Tim | Bible Survey D. Keammerer |
| 2/1/2026 | | Baptised We Live Pastor Erica/Pastor Tim | Bible Survey D. Keammerer |

2026 Lenten Dinners at CLC!!!

During Lent, you are invited to join in Lenten dinners at **5:30 p.m.** Wednesdays at CLC, before each **7:00 p.m.** evening service. **Please sign up for each meal in advance in the East Link so that the cooks know how many to expect, and consider bringing a dessert to share.** A free-will offering will be collected at each meal. Come and join in the fellowship!

As the season of Lent approaches, we are looking for individuals or groups to make the evening meals. Sign-up sheets are in the East Link, for more information call the church office. Remember when signing up to also ask for volunteers to set-up and clean-up the hall.

Dinner schedule:

February 18 ~ Denise Maragos (Something Delicious)

February 25 ~ Hospitality and Outreach (Taco Bar)

March 4 ~ Stephen Ministry (Soups and Surprises)

March 11

March 18 ~ CLC Choir (Sloppy Joes)

March 25

CLC Social Ministry and Mission January 2026

“Spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed” (Isaiah 58:10).

First Contact, Inc. and Mike Steiner Congregational Member Needs Memorial Fund.

Each month the Social Ministry highlights a special giving opportunity and volunteer opportunities. January’s emphasis is to support 1) First Contact Porter County <https://facebook.com/firstcontactportercounty> and 2) the Christ Lutheran Mike Steiner Benevolence Fund.

First Contact is a not-for-profit interdenominational resource and referral ministry, which endeavors in the name of Jesus to assist Porter County residents in need. The vision of FC is to engage a community of givers, through churches, individuals, and organizations to help support those facing hardship. FC has offices in Valparaiso and Portage. When Porter County residents come to the offices of Christ Lutheran with needs as described above, First Contact is our partner in helping address these needs. FC also welcomes volunteers to help in staffing their office hours.



Mike (Marjorie) Steiner was a member of Christ Lutheran who through her will asked her family to donate her financial savings (about \$15,000) to CLC. She asked that these monies be used to help CLC members who at a particular time have social, physical, and financial needs. The Social Ministry Committee established policies and procedures for making effective use of these funds to benefit those needing help with rent, utilities, emergency food, medicine, and counseling. It has been years since Mike’s initial gift, and numerous CLC members have benefited, so the fund needs new donations each year.

Help achieve our goal of \$2500 in January (over/above giving combined with CLC’s \$1200 budgeted amount). By achieving our goal CLC helps **First Contact** and **Steiner Fund** thrive. Use your weekly worship giving envelope with a check to CLC and indicate “F.C./Steiner”, or contribute through Subsplash on the CLC website <https://clevalpo.org> via the “Give” button. Thank you to members for supporting monthly emphases.

CIRCLE Dinner Providers Needed for 2026

Meals are needed for the high school youth group. Circle meets every Sunday from 6-8pm, with a meal to start at 6:00. Would you be willing to cook a meal and share it with the kids? You would be cooking for about 15 people and are welcome to stay for fellowship. If you are interested, please scan the QR code.



We Make Indiana, Porter County – January Chapter Meeting Tuesday, January 27 | 6:30 to 8:00 PM | Christ Lutheran Church

At this month's chapter meeting, we will continue our campaign to make housing more affordable and abundant in Porter County and across the state. We'll prepare for action on Palm Sunday and plan research meetings with legislators about a new housing and zoning reform bill (HB 1001). Join us to make 2026 a year of action for a more just and equitable community.

CLC Retreat



Registration is now open for the CLC 2026 Retreat: Living as a Christian When the Ground Feels Shaky

We'll gather at the Lindenwood Retreat Center in Plymouth Feb 20-22, hearing stories of faith and sharing in study, worship, and fellowship. Follow the QR code below to register online!

Any questions ask Don MacMillan or Pastor



LENT/EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE 2026

Ash Wednesday

February 18

1:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Mid-Week Lenten Dinners

February 18, 25; March 4, 11, 18, 25 @ 5:30 p.m.

Mid-Week Lenten Services

February 18, 25; March 4, 11, 18, 25 @ 7:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday

March 29

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

April 2 @ 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday

April 3

1:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil

Saturday, April 4 @ 4:00 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY

April 5

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Lent





Christ Lutheran CHURCH

2025 Giving Statements

THANK YOU for supporting the ministries of Christ Lutheran Church! Your commitment to our congregation and our community shares the love of Christ with our neighbors here in Valparaiso and all over the world. **Our congregation does so much more than Sunday worship!** During the past few months, Christ Lutheran:

- Hosted a Lutheran World Relief in-gathering, where we gathered an actual truckload of school supplies, personal care kits, baby care kits, fabric kits, and quilts from congregations all over the region;
- Raised \$4,955 at our annual Silent Auction, which helps send our youth to programs such as Quake and Confirmation Camp;
- Browsed gifts that can help support our neighbors around the world through our Alternative Giving Fair, which raised \$246 for Daybreak Shelter;
- Welcomed Karina Barlow as our new Director of Youth Ministries;
- Created a dedicated space off the Church Hall for Circle, our senior high youth group;
- Began renovating our tech closet and unused closet space into a new office, which will allow our Director of Youth Ministries to have a space closer to the staff offices;
- Moved our handbell choirs into a dedicated rehearsal space, which frees space in our music room for our growing Sanctuary Choir;
- Created opportunities for fellowship (and friendly competition!) at our Third Annual Chili Cook-Off, Thanksgiving pie fellowship, Bread Breakers groups, and Sunday morning Welcome Center chats;
- Welcomed our preschool families to LLP's annual Christmas parties and programs, where they heard the Christmas story and celebrated the birth of Christ;
- Heard the Christmas story from our own Sunday School children at their annual Christmas program;
- Prepared our hearts for Christmas with weekly Advent worship services;
- Rejoiced at the birth of Christ with wonderful music from our Chancel Choir, Celebration Ringers, first-ever Intergenerational Orchestra, soloists, and South Shore Brass Band;
- Continued our commitment to nurture our faith through Sunday School, Faith Formation Hour classes, Confirmation, Fusion, Circle, book groups, and Bible studies;
- Celebrated baptisms and welcomed new families into our community;
- Provided meeting space for Alcoholics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, Stephen Ministries, and our grief group;
- Repaid \$2,850 borrowed from our restricted funds;
- Raised \$12,079 to share with the ministries of Lutheran World Relief, ELCA World Hunger/Disaster Response, Daybreak Shelter, Gabriel's Horn, and our mission partner Bethel Lutheran in Gary.

YOUR GIFTS to our ministry allow these things to happen - THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

Please check your email or mailbox for your 2025 giving statement. Statements were sent electronically on Wednesday, January 21; look for an email from Christ Lutheran Church, coming from noreply@secure.subsplash.com. If you do not receive your statement electronically, it was mailed to you (if requested) or left in your church mailbox on January 21. Any statements not picked up from church mailboxes will be mailed on January 30. If you do not receive your statement, or have any questions, please call the church office or email our Business Manager, Heather Budnik (heather.budnik@clcvlpo.org). Thank you for helping change lives as part of our ministry at Christ Lutheran Church!

The colorful banners on display in the Sanctuary, the Gathering Place and Fellowship Hall are being shared by member, Phil Hahn. These banners are on loan from First Christian Church and were created by Phil's late wife, Laurel. Laurel made over forty liturgical banners and hundreds of quilts for family and others. Phil is making this display possible for us to enjoy and in remembrance of Laurel and her many talents.

Phil is an active member at CLC as a worship assistant, musician, and choir member. Phil is also a board member and participant for The South Shore Brass, a brass band that holds various concerts at Christ Lutheran throughout the year.

We appreciate Phil and his kind offer to share these beautiful banners with us over the next few weeks. Thank you, Phil.

~ Worship and Arts Committee

CLC SENIOR GROUP 2026 KICKOFF ACTIVITY

February 26 @ 9:30 a.m. @ Church
(All are welcome to attend)

Thrivent is funding this helping event. We will assist in tying quilts (blankets) that are going to LWR. Both male & female volunteers are appreciated. You do not need any special talents, other than tying knots. All materials will be provided. The tying can be done while sitting or standing. Thrivent is also providing lunch at 11:30 a.m. and all are welcome to stay - please email or text Judy at mbboom@comcast.net or 309-368-9536 or notify the church office, if you will be eating with us, so we will have enough food.

We are planning an event for the morning of March 26th. More information will follow.

LLP Registration

2026-2027 Registration is now open for everyone! We have plenty of Beginner AM and PM classes left and some afternoon Young 5/PreK spots.

The classes that will be offered this coming fall are:

- Beginners Tuesday/Thursday AM 8:45-11:15 (\$225/month). 3 & 4 years old.
Must be 3 by August 1, 2026
- Beginners 3 Session AM Mon/Wed/Fri 9:00-11:30 (\$275/month). 3 & 4 years old.
Should be 3 by Feb. 1, 2026
- Beginners 3 Session PM Mon/Wed/Fri 12:30-3:00 (\$275/month). 3 & 4 years old.
Should be 3 by Feb. 1, 2026
- Pre-K AM Mon/Wed/Fri 8:45-11:15 (\$250/month) 4 & 5 years old.
Must be 4 by August 1, 2026
- Pre-K PM Mon/Wed/Fri 12:15-2:45 (\$250/month) 4 & 5 years old.
Must be 4 by August 1, 2026*
- Young 5's AM Mon-Fri 9:00-11:30 (\$357/month) 4 & 5 years old. Should be 4 by June 1, 2026
- Young 5's PM Mon-Fri 12:30-3:00 (\$357/month) 4 & 5 years old. Should be 4 by June 1, 2026*

*Enrollment of up to 16 students in these classes will combine for a split class of PreK/Young 5.

An Extended Day Program will be available for Registration in Fall of 2026 for Spring Semester. Pre-K and Young 5 AM students, who will be attending Kindergarten the following school year, are eligible to enroll.

LLP reserves the right to cancel classes if enrollment is insufficient. A non-refundable registration fee of \$175.00 is due at the time of confirmation of registration. Additional siblings registering for the same school year may pay a reduced registration fee of \$119.00. Once you receive confirmation of registration from LLP you may pay for registration online via a link provided. The registration fee is not due until you receive confirmation that your child has secured a spot for the 2026-2027 school year.

Please contact Jen Gottlieb at 219-462-6660 #14 or LLP@CLCValpo.org for more information.

Registration is online at www.clcvalpo.org (click through to the LLP page).



Attention All Thrivent Financial Members!

Do you have any ***Thrivent Choice Dollars*** that have not been directed to the charity of our choice?

Minimum and maximum Choice Dollars Designations

Eligible clients will be designated a minimum of 25 Choice Dollars and a maximum of 5,000 Choice Dollars per eligibility period (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31).

Choice Dollars designated during the calendar year can be directed **until March 31, 2026.**

There are two ways of directing ***Choice Dollars*** to Christ Lutheran Church:

Computer: Go to the Thrivent Financial web site (www.Thrivent.com) and direct the ***Choice Dollars*** on-line.

Phone: Call Thrivent Financial at 1-800-847-4836. When prompted by the electronic answering system, say “***Thrivent Choice.***” Follow the remaining prompts, and a representative will come on the line to assist you. You will need your Thrivent membership ID number and will need to answer some other personal questions to verify that you are the Thrivent member who is on the line.

Missing Women’s Black Leather Coat

Has a collar, no belt, size medium

Tiny pin on front “PEO”

If you find this coat please let the office know.

Thank you!!

Attention all Youth



If you are participating in the ISSMA program this year through your school, we would love to have you share your talents with us in worship. If you are interested, please contact or speak with Mr. Bartusch to schedule a time to play during our Sunday morning worship services.